



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

16/c
I.W.
9-3-02

In re Application of: Homan, et al.

Serial No: 09/177,902

Filed: 10/23/98

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PACKED COLUMN SEPARATIONS
AND PURIFICATIONS

) Art Unit: 1724
)
) Examiner: Ivars C. Cintins
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) Paper No: 16
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) File No: E-1658
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) Date: July 29, 2002
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AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AUG 23 2002

TC 1700

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated 03/29/02, Applicant sets forth the following amendments and remarks toward reconsideration for allowance of the above-referenced application. The Applicant requests a one month extension of time and encloses a fee sheet for the fee, believed to be about \$55.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace claims 1, 5, 8, and 17 with the following claims of the same claim number:

- Sub. 5.1
C1
1. (twice amended) A method of packing and unpacking a column chamber, comprising the steps of:
flowing a mixture of a matrix material and fluid into a column chamber and forming a packed column from the matrix material, said column chamber having a first port for receiving said mixture, and outlet port and an actuator port wherein said actuator port is provided as having a rod having

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